

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

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TRSE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7600

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS ON SADAT VISIT

1. CAIRO PAPERS OCT 31 CONTINUE GIVE HEAVY PLAY TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S PROGRESS THROUGH US. TWO OUT OF THREE DAILIES CHOOSE AS FEATURE PICTURE PHOTO OF SADAT IN CONVERSATION WITH GM CHAIRMAN AND JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL CHAIRMAN MURPHY, A SIGNAL TO EGYPTIAN READERSHIP THAT OPEN DOOR IS RECEIVING PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF SADAT HIMSELF. SIMILAR SIGNAL WAS PROVIDED IN SADAT'S RECENT SPEECHES IN CAIRO AND IN PRIMIN'S OFFICIAL GOE POLICY STATEMENT TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OCT 29. EFFORTS TO CUT THROUGH GOE BUREAUCRATIC MAZE, MAY, IN FACT, NOW BE UNDER WAY AT LAST (SEPTTEL).

2. DAILIES GIVE PROMINENCE BOTH TO SADAT'S ASSURANCES TO US BUSINESSMEN THAT GOE WILL SAFEGUARD CAPITAL INVESTED IN EGYPT AND TO EGYPTIAN UN MISSION'S CONSULTATIONS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION RE PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. AHRAH QUOTES EGYPTIAN AMB TO UN AS SAYING HE EXPECTS AT LEAST 100 COUNTRIES WILL SPONSOR RESOLUTION.

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3. MAIN STORY IN AKHBAR, UNDER RED BANNER HEADLINE "AMERICAN

SUPPORT FOR SALE OF ARMS TO EGYPT", MISQUOTES SECDEF SCHELESINGER AS SAYING IN TV INTERVIEW THAT HE "WOULD RECOMMEND" US ARMS SALES TO EGYPT, SINCE DIVERSIFICATION OF EGYPTIAN ARMS SOURCES WOULD HELP STABILIZE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION BY DIMINISHING BASIS OF PAST SOVIET INFLUENCE OVER EGYPT. OTHER PAPERS ALSO CARRY SIMILAR STORY ON FRONT PAGE. ARTICLES ADD THAT SADAT'S CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON ON ARMS SUPPLY HAVE BEEN IN GENERAL TERMS ONLY.

4. ALL PAPERS GIVE FRONT PAGE PROMINENCE TO PRES SADAT'S REFUSAL TO RECEIVE NEW YORK GOV HUGH CAREY. ARTICLES NOTE THAT GOV CAREY HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED MAYOR BEAME'S DECISION NOT TO GREET PRES SADAT. PROMINENT COVERAGE GIVEN TO SADAT'S ARRIVAL IN CHICAGO AND HIS WELCOME AT AIRPORT IN ILLINOIS GOV WALKER.

5. EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE PAPERS DEAL WITH PRES SADAT'S SPEECH TO UNGA AND HIS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS AIMED AT RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE AND FOR UNGA RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PLO PARTICIPATION. AHRAH COMMENTS THAT IT IS UP TO UN TO SEIZE THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF ENDING CHRONIC MIDEAST PROBLEM BY ADOPTING PRES SADAT'S STRATEGY. AKHBAR PRAISED SADAT'S PRESENTATION TO UNGA AS PRESENTING A "TRUTHFUL, CONVINCING PICTURE OF THE ROOTS OF THE CASE", AND CONTRASTED WORLD-WIDE WELCOME OF SADAT'S SPEECH WITH "THE METHOD OF POLITICAL AUCTIONEERING WHICH FAILS TO ADVANCE ARAB CAUSE ONE STEP FORWARD".

6. ALL EGYPTIAN MEDIA CONTINUE IGNORE PASSAGE OF ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH CANAL SCHEDULED FOR TODAY.

7. COMMENT: FROM POINT OF VIEW OF PROPAGANDA IMPACT, EVENTS SURROUNDING SADAT'S ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK HAVE DELIGHTED OUR EGYPTIAN CONTACTS. MAYOR BEAME'S ANNOUNCEMENT COUPLED WITH ANTI-SADAT DEMONSTRATIONS BY ZIONIST GROUPS PROVIDE, IRONICALLY, MADE-TO-ORDER COPY FOR EGYPTIAN PURPOSES. CAIRO PAPERS, WHICH ARE READ THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD, ARE ABLE TRUTHFULLY TO REPORT TWO TRENDS, BOTH OF WHICH BOLSTER SADAT'S ARAB IMAGE: ZIONISTS ARE DENIGRATING EGYPT AND USG REGARDS SADAT AS IMPORTANT FRIEND AND ALLY. MINSTATE MUHAMMAD RIAD REMARKED TO CHARGE HE HAS BEEN "PRAYING" FOR SUCH A FORTUITOUS SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
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